

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR INSPECTION OF PIPELINES HAVING INTERNAL RESTRICTIONS

Abstract

The system and method provides a means for inspecting pipelines that have obstructions which prevent conventional inspection pigs from passing the obstructions. The invention is a system and method that uses remote-field eddy current inspection techniques and a uniquely configured excitation coil for inline inspection of pipelines having valves and other fittings that severely restrict or prevent the use of conventional inspection pigs. The invention relies on a unique collapsible excitation coil and a collapsible sensor array that enables an inspection pig incorporating the invention to pass pipeline obstructions that prevent passage by conventional inspection pigs. The invention provides a means for reducing the diameter of the inspection pig to enable it to pass obstructions in the pipeline.